



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



[*The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.*]

THE JOURNAL AS AN EDUCATOR

DEAR EDITOR: For a long time I have wished to say to every registered nurse that I think the JOURNAL covers all of our needs, if we apply all that it contains.

It has happened that just before going to care for a nervous case, or a typhoid fever, or pneumonia, or some other, that I would read in the JOURNAL an article upon that particular case that might possibly contain something new to me, and I consider it equal to any post-graduate course, and with careful study we can, I believe, receive the Hospital Economics course from it and always have the up-to-date education of a registered nurse.

EDITH C. HUNTINGTON, R.N.

REORGANIZATION ENDORSED

I

DEAR EDITOR: The "Eastern Delegate" has expressed my sentiments upon the suffrage question. We are organized for a definite purpose and let us abide by our constitution.

The plan suggested by the JOURNAL for reorganization seems a good one. Not only is the American Medical Association organized thus, but the National Educational Association and the National Charities and Corrections. I am very much in favor of the consolidation of our two great national associations, and the subdivision of the whole into departments.

A WESTERN NURSE.

II

DEAR EDITOR: The proposed union of the Associated Alumnae and the Superintendents' Society is distinctly a forward movement. Our aims are one, and I believe that a combination would make one of the strongest professional associations in the world. I am very glad the JOURNAL advocates it, as I believe its influence is more strongly felt than most of us realize, and as it stands for progressive lines always, it is a comfort to have this movement promoted by it.

Most sincerely yours,

HARRIET FULMER.

THE SUFFRAGE

I

DEAR EDITOR: I am surprised and sorry to read that there is any subject "too broad and general" for the JOURNAL to present. As nurses, meeting all classes of people, we need all the *breadth* and *largeness* of vision we can get, and our JOURNAL should be one of our chief sources for *getting*. The wider our horizon the better we may understand conditions that we consider beneath us;

and surely, with the people who are deep thinkers we must try to show a reasonable degree of intelligence on the world questions. As for the suggestion recently made in a JOURNAL letter, with regard to Mohammedanism, I see no serious objection to a concise statement about that faith; but on the other hand, all creeds and faiths are narrow as compared with the principles of religion that shine through them all, and those need not be considered irrelevant anywhere. That the nurses do not consider them so, was shown in the Detroit convention, where the work of the Y. W. C. A. was presented and received with favor.

We want clubs to endorse our movement for registration, yet are we willing to listen to the arguments which another organization, far larger and more powerful than our own, finds vital enough for their "one aim?" What if everybody were so "narrow" that they would not listen to our appeal for registration, but only busied themselves with their special *ism*! Let us see the problems of others, and just so far as we ask their intelligent consideration, let us give in return. That it might interfere in some particular instance is possible; but I believe that, other things being equal, nurses' registration will be more readily procurable where there is political equality; and suffrage more likely where there is nurses' registration.

It is well that the endorsement did not carry at the San Francisco convention, for it would not have truly represented the nurses. I do not say that we should pass it at the next meeting, but the question has come up and I make a plea for information that shall help us to know why we do or why we do not. As business or professional women we need to recognize the debt we owe to the women who have *done things* before us, making it possible for us to hold the positions that we do to-day. To be sure, Miss Anthony came to see that the whole question was one of education, and the people could not be forced into a recognition of political equality until they were ready for it, but education is what we need, and it never hurt anybody. Additional suggestions as to where to look for good articles on broad subjects would be a welcome department to some of us, who read little, but try to read good things when we do. To be *broad* one must look on both sides of a question. It is possible to be very narrow in the most progressive reform. It is a sad commentary that recently appeared, that the "demand for nurses of broad general culture in addition to their technical training cannot be met at the present time." Our JOURNAL has a great responsibility here and can help us to develop in this way and "promote the ethical standards in *all* the relations of the nursing profession."

Nurses in general do not know the progress women have made; for instance, in Australia and New Zealand, where they have political equality, and in England, where they have all rights with men except the vote for members of Parliament. It is for this one thing that they have worked so hard recently. I certainly do not wish to see in America such a demonstration as they had in London, but it would be well if we had more of the stability of purpose that has characterized the English women's campaign.

Plymouth, Mich.

ADA M. SAFFORD.

II

DEAR EDITOR: I wish to express satisfaction at the attitude taken by you in regard to woman suffrage. I think the subject of suffrage or political equality should have no place in a magazine devoted to *nursing*, and the action of the convention should be commended.

Have you space for President Roosevelt's admirable letter in regard to this matter?

Always appreciating your excellent magazine, I am

Very sincerely,

Princeton, N. J.

BESSIE LOUISE DICKSON.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S LETTER

The letter was not written for publication, but was read with the writer's permission in the course of an address on "The Assault on Womanhood." The letter, which is dated November 10, 1908, says:

"Personally, I believe in woman suffrage, but I am not an enthusiastic advocate of it, because I do not regard it as a very important matter. I am unable to see that there has been any special improvement in the position of women in those states in the west that have adopted woman suffrage as compared with those states adjoining them that have not adopted it. I do not think that giving the woman suffrage will produce any marked improvement in the condition of women. I do not believe that it will produce any of the evils feared, and I am very certain that when women as a whole take any special interest in the matter, they will have the suffrage if they desire it.

"But at present I think most of them are lukewarm: I find some actively for it, and some actively against it. I am for the reasons above given rather what you would regard as lukewarm or tepid in my support of it, because while I believe in it, I do not regard it as of very much importance.

"I believe that man and woman should stand on an equality of right, but I do not believe that equality of right means identity of function; and I am more and more convinced that the great field, the indispensable field, for the usefulness of woman is as the mother of the family. It is her work in the household, in the home, her work in bearing and rearing the children, which is more important than any man's work, and it is that work which should be normally the woman's special work, just as normally the man's work should be that of the bread-winner, the supporter of the home, and if necessary, the soldier who will fight for the home.

"There are exceptions as regards both man and woman; but the full and perfect life, the life of highest happiness and of highest usefulness to the state, is the life of the man and woman who are husband and wife, who live in the partnership of love and duty, the one earning enough to keep the home, the other managing the home and the children."